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COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE FIRST COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR ERITREA

Note by the Administrator

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Eritrea was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1996 for the period January 1997 to December 1999.

2. In March 1999, the Government presented to UNDP and the other development partners the first draft of its three-year national economic policy framework and programme for 1999 to 2001. The Government continues to focus on people-centred development based on social justice, giving equal emphasis to the formation of social and physical capital in harmony with sustainable human development (SHD) principles. To enable it to sustain these initiatives, and given that the national development priorities have not changed, the Government has requested an extension of the current CCF for one year to allow UNDP to continue with the development and implementation of its ongoing programmes and projects in the development of human resource capacity and institutional strengthening at national, regional and community levels accommodating the SHD thematic areas of: (a) governance and democratization; (b) area-based development and decentralization; (c) natural resources and environment management; and (d) gender in development. Consultations between UNDP, the Government and other development partners confirmed the continued relevance of the first CCF to the Government's priority areas of focus.

3. The extension of the current CCF through December 2000 will also enable the harmonization of programming cycles among UNDP and the agencies of the Development Group. The current programmes of both UNFPA and UNICEF end in the year 2000.

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4. Furthermore, the extension will provide sufficient lead-time for a comprehensive review of the CCF, enabling results and lessons learned to be inputs for the preparation of the next CCF. It is expected that the second CCF will be submitted to the Executive Board at its third regular session 2000.

5. Against this background, the Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first CCF for Eritrea for a period of one year beginning 1 January 2000.